

crowded legislative schedule, especially recently, to pause and remember what makes this institution unique, not only the representative government in the legislative branch of our constitutional Republic, but also those who serve herein, and those who have served.

Two nights ago, Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to welcome back to Capitol Hill one of my constituents, Betty Rhodes, the widow of our former Republican leader, John J. Rhodes, who passed away now two summers ago next month.

And as I was honored to be the Congressman for former Congressman Rhodes and certainly honored that his widow, Betty, remains one of my constituents, it is also important to reflect on another Member of Congress who called the Fifth District of Arizona home, and who recently passed on. His name, Joseph Karth.

He came to this institution being elected in the year of my birth, 1958, and served until 1977, representing the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Minnesota.

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I stand to remember Joe not having a real personal relationship with him, but having this bond that we are among a comparatively few Americans who have been given the honor and privilege of serving in this constitutional office as a United States Representative.

Perhaps the best expression of what this honor means came earlier in our history from the man who served as the sixth President of the United States, John Quincy Adams. Many of us remember that, but few remember the fact that following his time as President, former President Adams ran for and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. And when he was elected to this body from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, former President, Congressman-elect John Quincy Adams said, "There is no greater honor than serving in the people's House."

And though Joe Karth came to this Chamber on the other side of the aisle, and though I am sure there would be many points of disagreement, as we survey the opportunities in America, as we perhaps typify different philosophies and different practices, there is this common bond that everyone honored to serve here understands. There is no higher honor than being elected to serve in the people's House.

Joe Karth did it remarkably well for the people of the Fourth District of Minnesota. He succeeded a man who served in the other body, Eugene McCarthy, who went on to run for the Presidency of the United States. But Joe Karth was more concerned during his 18 years of service in the people's House with getting his job done for his constituents.

Journalists remember that he was the kind of Congressman who would roll up his sleeves, the kind of Con-

gressman who had intense interest in his constituents. And if there might be a problem with a Social Security check arriving late or not arriving at all, or if there might be a dispute about a veteran's disability, Joe Karth was the type of Congressman who would step in to make sure his constituents were represented.

Mr. Speaker, I would maintain that is a great lesson for all of us, regardless of political philosophy or partisan designation, that to truly represent the people, we have to listen to the people and respond. By that measure of service, Joe Karth was indeed an exceptional Member of this body.

History will record that it was Joe Karth, an avid outdoorsman, who introduced and had passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. His love of golf brought him to Arizona, and that is where he lived, and that is where he passed away earlier this summer.

To his family, to his many friends, to the people of Minnesota and to his neighbors in Arizona, we say we remember Joe Karth, and we salute him for his lifetime of service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STORY OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I shall not take near 60 minutes, but I intend to yield the vast majority of this time back to the Chair so the Chair can recognize my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE). I appreciate the leadership accommodating me so I can tell to the Members the story, the unfortunate story, of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and the state of affairs in the Russian Federation today.

Since June of 1987, when President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate and urged Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall," through glasnost and perestroika, through monetary reform and trade, the United States has taken an approach towards active engagement toward democratic reform in Russia.

As cochairman of the Russia Democracy Group, I am committed to seeing these efforts continue. Today the U.S. looks to Russia as a partner in this changing world. At the same time, the responsibility lies on our shoulders to hold our Russian counterparts accountable as they move towards democracy. Recent events in Russia such as the consolidation of power by the Kremlin, restrictions on the media, and the government seizure of private companies, have raised concerns over the path Russia is taking to freedom.

One recent incident in particular draws to mind memories of Russia under the Soviet Union, not the free and democratic society we had hoped it would become. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who is pictured here to my left, was CEO of the YUKOS Oil Company, the largest company in Russia. In October of 2003, he was arrested at gunpoint and tried for a multitude of politically motivated charges. The trial, if you can call it that, was completed on May 31 of this year, and Mr. Khodorkovsky was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Recently I, along with many Members of Congress, had the opportunity to meet with one of Mr. Khodorkovsky's business partners, Leonid Nevzlin. Mr. Nevzlin, now living in Israel, has also been charged by the Russian courts for his connection to YUKOS.

While in the United States, Mr. Nevzlin spoke before the U.S. Helsinki Commission and confirmed what many of us feared. Russia is quickly moving away from democracy rather than embracing it.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky's account of the trial and the deterioration of law in Russia is a compelling story that needs to be heard. Following his sentencing, Mr. Khodorkovsky wrote his thoughts from his prison cell as he awaited his departure for the Siberian prison camps. I believe it is important today that I read his profoundly eloquent statement in its entirety.

"Despite obvious lack of evidence of my guilt and a mass of evidence that I was not involved in any crimes whatsoever, the court has decided to send me to the camps.

"I do not intend to harshly criticize the esteemed judge, Irina Kolesnikova. I can imagine what sort of pressure she was under from the initiators of the Khodorkovsky case while she was preparing the verdict. Scores of government functionaries, or just plain self-interested intermediaries, were ready to bring any amount of money to the court to make sure I was sent to Siberia.

"When it comes right down to it, Kolesnikova is not the problem. The